

Declassification of Captured German Documents:

*overall classification is  
Confidential -*

Col. Moe, Chief of the Information Control Section of the Security Group, War Department General Staff has given oral authorization to the Chief of GMDS to up-grade and down-grade any captured German documents. Continuous pressure has been brought to bear by the Secretary of War on the Intelligence and Information Division (ex-Public Relations Division) to make available to the general public declassified captured German documents. GMDS supported by the Historical Division has evaded the issue due to the fact that sufficient personnel is not available to service or to set up separately declassified documents for use by civilian researchers. However, additional space has been secured at Building 701, Columbia Pike for GMDS and it is planned to set up there all declassified captured records.

A study has also been submitted to the Security Group requesting the services of a declassification team to screen the remainder of the GMDS records for further classification. This is still pending.

**SECRET**

FUNCTIONS AND ORGANIZATION OF GERMAN MILITARY DOCUMENT SECTION

Part I

a. Mission

The missions of GMDS were outlined in Memorandum by Chief, Intelligence Group, dated 5 June 1946, and are listed below. They are carried out in priority indicated.

(1) Insure continuous dissemination of information on material available for research by SDS on the USSR.

(2) Complete cataloguing and maintenance of an active library of German captured documents.

(3) Receive and process incoming documents giving priority to documents pertaining to USSR.

(4) Publish catalogue of material in GMDS for information of all authorized agencies.

(5) GMDS will maintain the library for all German captured documents. Documents will be made available to all authorized agencies on a loan basis.

**SECRET**

Dictated over Telephone by Major Seeley

16 April 1947

Mission of German Military Document Section:

1. To insure continuous dissemination of information ~~and~~ material available for research by SDS on the Russian Industrial potential
2. Keep, catalogue, and maintenance of an active library of German captured documents.
3. Receive and process incoming documents, giving priority to documents pertaining to ~~Industry~~ the USSR
4. Publish catalogue of material in GMDS for information of all authorized agencies.
5. GMDS will maintain the library for all German captured documents. Documents will be made available to all authorized agencies on a loan basis.

In addition we determine which documents are of intelligence value and should be maintained actively and which ones are of historical or of no future value and should be maintained inactively.

Dispose of captured German documents which are of neither historical nor intelligence value by distribution to War Department Library, Library of Congress and to the technical services.

- Screening of incoming material; maintenance of intelligence catalogue; assembling for disposition to other sources; advise the Adjutant General and the priorities of documents in the disposition of captured documents/for libraries; maintain liaison
- with Intelligence Division, War Department

Searching for and assembling of documents containing intelligence

information on a specific subject as requested by authorized intelligence agencies.

Adjutant General will control captured documents; You should control as well as choose.

Merger of SDS/GMDS on paper, certainly, but actually SDS trained people should stay where they are and GMDS where they are, but personnel should be interchanged.

SDS personnel has been kept away from GMDS as much as possible, ~~but~~ by Garry and myself. We were very formally advised that they be put in charge of [ ] and lead around whenever they visited GMDS. 50X1

On the Adjutant General side [ ] is going to stay for 60 maximum 50X1  
and then <sup>may</sup> ~~will~~ be converted to civilian. He might be a civilian working for the Adjutant General *for CIG (at P5)*

DISSEMINATION OF THE INTELLIGENCE CARD CATALOGUE

GMDS

- A)
- a. Intelligence Library, Intelligence Division (1 set). WD / ID
  - b. Air Information Division, A-2 Library Branch, Army Air Forces. (2 sets) direct
  - c. Central Intelligence Group, Office of Collection, New War Department Building. (1 set) direct
  - d. Canadian Army Staff, GSO 1. Ops and Int. Washington D.C. Attn; Lt. Col. Cutbill (2 sets) WD (P+C)
  - e. British Army Staff, New War Department Bldg. Washington D.C. (2 sets) WD (P+C)
  - f. Joint Intelligence Bureau, 11 Bryanston Square, London W. 1 England. (1 set) WD (P+C)
  - g. Reading Panel, Intelligence Div (16 sets)

B) DISSEMINATION OF THE INTELLIGENCE CARD CATALOGUE IN READING PANEL

Distribution

Eurasian - 1  
Western European - 1  
Scientific - 1  
Topographic - 1  
Map & Photo - 1  
United States Br. - 1  
Quartermaster - 1  
Chemical Corps - 1  
Signal - 1  
Engineers - 1  
Transportation - 1  
Ordnance - 1  
Medical - 1  
ONI - 1  
State - 2

direct  
direct

13 WD R Panel

C O N F I D E N T I A L

THE GMDS INTELLIGENCE CATALOGUE

1. General Explanation.

In the collection of documents held by the German Military Documents Section, there is a large amount of material of great intelligence value. The purpose of the intelligence catalogue is to make known to all interested intelligence agencies what material is available in the GMDS library. This is being done by the preparation and distribution of index cards, each of which shows one item from the collection, classified by subject and location.

The following explanation of the GMDS intelligence catalogue and its use, is forwarded with the first batch of 500 cards to be issued.

2. Design of Cards.

The cards have been designed for use in the following ways:

a. To be set up as a central index which would include all cards issued, cross-referenced under all subject classifications and geographic classifications entered on the cards.

b. To be set up as separate card indices, each embracing the specialized subject or group of subjects for the use of agencies with special interests.

c. To be distributed as individual cards and routed to interested agencies, so that these may all have an opportunity of selecting items from GMDS collection which would be of interest to them.

A blank space has been left at the top of each card to enable agencies using the card to fill in any classification they prefer.

3. Explanation of the individual card.

A typical card is reproduced as Appendix 1, showing how the information is set forth upon it.

4. Filing.

The cards are designed to be filed under each of the subject headings listed on the card and also under the geographical location listed on the left-hand side of the card. The subject headings that have been used in the compilation of the cards are listed in Appendix 2. Cards may, of course, be filed under any other classification that agencies receiving them may consider more suitable, and a space has been left for such classification. (e.g. BID number) to be inserted.

5. Use of the cards.

The cards are intended to indicate to interested agencies what items are available in the GMDS document collection. When an agency requires the information to which reference is made on the card, request should be made through the proper channels to GMDS for a photocopy of the item or for the original on loan. Where location permits, agencies may find it more convenient to refer to documents in the GMDS library before requesting photocopies or originals on loan.

6. Scope of the Catalogue.

The Intelligence Catalogue is designed to show what is available in the following fields:

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

a. Military Intelligence.

All information on armies, navies, and air forces of countries other than enemy countries in the Second World War.

b. Basic Intelligence.

Topographical and economic intelligence on Eastern Germany and on countries to the east of Germany (including the Balkan and Asiatic countries) and on Spain and Portugal.

c. Scientific and Technical Intelligence.

All intelligence on weapons, military techniques, and scientific research of potential value and application to warlike end.

If there should be a demand for information not covered in the subject headings, it may be possible at a later date to extend the scope of the catalogue.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

## APPENDIX 1

SPECIMEN CARD FROM GMDs INTELLIGENCE INDEX

Card No. 516 is reproduced below with explanation of entries.

	Column 1 Subjects	Column 2 Description & reference	Column 3 Geographic location
Space for agencies' own classification		CONFIDENTIAL	
Main heading	Army	Detailed report on German experience in the winter campaign in Russia including tactical, supply and transportation problems under the impact of Russian winter and the "mud-period".	Russia
Subject heading 1	Tactics & Strategy		Geographic location
Subject heading 2	Equipment		Description of item
Subject heading 3	Logistics		
Main heading	Meteorology & Climatology		
Subject heading 4		12 Feb 42	(Date of validity of information)
Main heading	Transportation	9 pp.	Length of item
Subject heading 5	Railways	6th Army	Issuing unit
Subject heading 6	Roads	18505,10	File number
		#1331	Place of item in file
Serial number	Card No. 516		

Each set will include 7 copies of this card to permit filing under all 6 subject headings and the geographical classification.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L



C O N F I D E N T I A L

APPENDIX 2

SUBJECT HEADINGS FOR INTELLIGENCE CATALOGUE

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE

ARMY

- Order of Battle
- Organization
- Manpower
- Equipment
- Uniforms, Insignia, Decorations, Awards, Citations, Rank
- Fortifications
- Tactics and Strategy
- Training
- Intelligence and Counter-Intelligence
- Logistics
- Administration

IRREGULAR ARMIES

- Partisan Warfare

NAVY

- No subheadings

AIR (MILITARY)

- Organization
- Manpower and plane strength
- Aircraft, weapons, equipment
- Installations, markings and camouflage
- Tactics, strategy, training
- Logistics
- Administration
- Operations
- Airfield Intelligence

BASIC INTELLIGENCE

MILITARY GEOGRAPHY

- Mapping and survey
- Terrain
- Seasonal variations
- Suitability of areas for operations
- Suitability of areas for airfield construction.

MILITARY GEOLOGY

- Geology and soil
- Mineral supplies
- Water supply
- Construction materials

METEOROLOGY AND CLIMATOLOGY

- No subdivisions

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

MEDICAL GEOGRAPHY

Prevalent diseases  
Seasonal pests  
Disease-carrying fauna  
Hygiene

ENGINEERING INTELLIGENCE

Bridges  
Tunnels  
Rivers  
Flood control  
Permanently frozen ground

ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries  
Fuels, storage and transportation of fuels  
Minerals and mining industry  
Building and construction materials  
Manufacturing industries  
Shipbuilding  
Electricity supply  
Water supply  
Gas supply  
Sewerage systems

LABOR RESOURCES

Population  
Training and skills

TRANSPORTATION

Railways  
Roads  
Waterways and water transport  
Trans-shipment points and facilities  
Air transport

TELE-COMMUNICATIONS

No subheadings

PORTS

No subheadings

CITIES AND TOWNS

No subheadings

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE

WEAPONS

Description and data on performance  
Manufacture

MILITARY TECHNIQUES

Military construction (e.g. Bridge constructing, construction of ice roads etc.)

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

MILITARY TECHNIQUES (continued)

Mining  
Improvised equipment

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Weapons and munitions research  
War medicine  
Gas and bacteriological research  
Nuclear physics and fissionable materials  
Research institutions

EVALUATIONS

German evaluation of own intelligence

(Filed also under subject)

C O N F I D E N T I A L